

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Luigi FIORINELLI, et al.

Attorney Docket Q64700

Appln. No.: not yet assigned

Group Art Unit: not yet assigned

Confirmation No.: not yet assigned

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: May 29, 2001

For: A THERMOFORMED PANEL AND METHOD FOR ITS PRODUCTION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, delete the heading “DESCRIPTION” and insert the heading

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, after line 4 insert the heading

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 3, after line 5 insert the heading

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

after line 17 insert the heading

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

11. (Amended) A thermoformed panel according to claim 10, obtainable by means of a process for the production of a panel.

12. (Amended) A thermoformed panel according to claim 10, having one or more reinforcing ribs or ridges projecting from one face of the panel and wherein the other face of the panel is free from concavities complementary to the said ribs or ridges, in which the material in the regions corresponding to the ribs or ridges has an expanded cellular structure with greater porosity than the porosity of the material present in the regions of lesser thickness.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A panel comprising at least one layer of thermoformable plastics material having separate regions of different thickness, is obtained by a method comprising the steps of: extruding of a sheet of plastics material with the addition to the said material of an expansion agent, the extrusion being conducted in conditions such as to avoid expansion of the material or to cause only partial expansion thereof; heating the thus-obtained sheet to a temperature such as to cause post expansion of the material; and thermoforming the sheet in a thermoforming cavity of complementary shape to the desired panel so that the thermoformed panel produced has in the regions of greater thickness an expanded cellular structure where the material has a lower density than the density of the material in the regions of lesser thickness.

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REMARKS

The above specification has been amended to add section headings to the various sections of the application and to delete the multiple dependencies therein. Entry and consideration of this Amendment and an early and favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 29, 2001

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 1, delete the heading "DESCRIPTION" and insert the heading

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, after line 4 insert the heading

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 3, after line 5 insert the heading

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

after line 17 insert the heading

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

11. (Amended) A thermoformed panel according to claim 10, obtainable by means of a process according to claim 1 for the production of a panel.

12. (Amended) A thermoformed panel according to claims 10 or 11 claim 10, having one or more reinforcing ribs or ridges projecting from one face of the panel and wherein the other face of the panel is free from concavities complementary to the said ribs or ridges, in which the material in the regions corresponding to the ribs or ridges has an expanded cellular

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structure with greater porosity than the porosity of the material present in the regions of lesser thickness.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE:

The abstract is changed as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A panel comprising at least one layer of thermoformable plastics material having separate regions of different thickness, is obtained by a method comprising the steps of:

_____ extruding of a sheet of plastics material with the addition to the said material of an expansion agent, the extrusion being conducted in conditions such as to avoid expansion of the material or to cause only partial expansion thereof;

_____ heating the thus-obtained sheet to a temperature such as to cause post expansion of the material; and

_____ thermoforming the sheet in a thermoforming cavity of complementary shape to the desired panel so that the thermoformed panel produced has in the regions of greater thickness an expanded cellular structure where the material has a lower density than the density of the material in the regions of lesser thickness.

(Fig. 4)